

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 2 with:

The present invention relates generally to optical communications systems and in particular to composite packet-switching over WDM using transparent slot routing. A composite packet is a signal, treated as a unit of information, constrained to within a chosen time interval such as a time slot, on a communication means such as a fiber or a port, that is constituted from a preselected plurality of signals, each of which is a digital signal that is modulated onto a carrier, where the carriers of the plurality of signals all have different wavelengths. A partial composite packet is constituted from less than the preselected plurality of signal but otherwise is the same as a composite packet. The photonic slot routing ring networks use a novel packet stacking technique to add or drop packets, which are simultaneously time and wavelength division multiplexed.